



San Antonio Police Department

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DATE: March 6, 2003

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MEDIA ADVISORY

SAPD TO RELEASE STATISTICS GATHERED ON BIAS-PROFILING

What: News Conference

When: Thursday, March 6th
2:30 PM

Where: PIO Conference Room
SAPD Headquarters
214 W. Nueva

San Antonio Police Chief Albert Ortiz will hold a news conference to release the Racial Profiling Summary Report. On January 1, 2002, we began collecting data pursuant to Senate Bill 1074. During this one-year period, the Department collected 288,490 records on officer-initiated contacts.

A summary of the data collected will be available at the news conference.

Racial Profiling Summary Report To Follow

SAPD Racial Profiling Summary Report

On January 1, 2002, the San Antonio Police Department began collecting data pursuant to Senate Bill 1074. A one-year period summary report was provided to City Council on March 1, 2003. During this one-year period, the Department collected 288,490 records on officer-initiated contacts.

Much has been written on the interpretation of racial profiling data. It is significant to consider this information only as a comparison of the interactions between our department and members of our community. The data must be considered in the light of other information relative to various factors, such as faults inherent in the "comparative benchmark", behavior that puts a person at risk of being stopped, and determining why an officer decides to stop a particular vehicle or person. Only a comprehensive and well-reasoned study of the data by professionals in the field of statistics can provide us with a reliable interpretation of what the data means.

It is important to understand that no single number or combination of numbers will verify or indicate whether racial profiling is present or absent within our Department. Although numbers and percentages may be used as descriptive information, they are simply "raw data" that must be interpreted. A fair and impartial third party should be involved in this analysis, which is the intent of the department and will be accomplished with funding provided by the Justice Department grant "Creating a Culture of Integrity".

Summary of Collected Data:

Texas Law (SB1074) requires each law enforcement agency to report statistics each year on the subject of traffic stops and pedestrian stops.

S.B. 1074:

Art. 2.133. REPORTS REQUIRED FOR TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN STOPS.

(a) In this article:

- (1) "Race or ethnicity" has the meaning assigned by Article 2.132(a).
- (2) "Pedestrian stop" means an interaction between a peace officer and an individual who is being detained for the purpose of a criminal investigation in which the individual is not under arrest.

(b) A peace officer who stops a motor vehicle for an alleged violation of a law ordinance regulating traffic or who stops a pedestrian for any suspected offense shall report to the law enforcement agency that employs the officer information relating to the stop, including:

- (1) Physical description of each person detained as a result of the stop, including:
 - (A) The person's gender; and
 - (B) The person's race or ethnicity, as stated by the person or, if the person does not state the person's race or ethnicity, as determined by the officer to the best of the officer's ability;
- (2) the traffic law or ordinance alleged to have been violated or the suspected offense;
- (3) whether the officer conducted a search as a result of the stop and, if so, whether the person detained consented to the search
- (4) whether any contraband was discovered in the course of the search and the type of contraband discovered;
- (5) whether probable cause to search existed and the facts supporting the existence of that probable cause;

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- (6) whether the officer made an arrest as a result of the stop or the search, including a statement of the offense charged;
- (7) the street address or approximate location of the stop; and
- (8) whether the officer issued a warning or a citation as a result of the stop, including a description of the warning or a statement of the violation charged.

For SAPD during 2002, the following statistics are reported, in accordance with the law.

Total Traffic Stops in 2002 = 214,803

Of the total 214,803 Traffic Stops in 2002,

African Americans were stopped 19,670 times (9.6%)
Hispanics were stopped 130,201 times (60.6%)
Whites were stopped 61,899 times (28.8%)

Of the 214,803 Traffic Stops, 159,652 resulted in citations

African Americans received 13,650 citations (8.5%)
Hispanics received 96,470 citations (60.4%)
Whites received 47,148 citations (29.5%)

Of the 214,803 Traffic Stops, 19,626 resulted in custodial arrests

African Americans were arrested 2,137 times (10.9%)
Hispanics were arrested 14,148 times (72.1%)
Whites were arrested 3,260 times (16.6%)

Total Pedestrian Stops in 2002 = 73,625

Of the total 73,625 Pedestrian stops in 2002,

African Americans were stopped 10,342 times (14.1%)
Hispanics were stopped 44,772 times (60.8%)
Whites were stopped 18,058 times (24.5%)

Of the 73,625 Pedestrian Stops, 11,582 resulted in citations

African Americans received 1161 citations (10.0%)
Hispanics received 6816 citations (58.8%)
Whites received 3521 citations (30.4%)

Of the 73,652 Pedestrian Stops, 37,117 resulted in arrests

African Americans were arrested 4,681 times (12.6%)
Hispanics were arrested 23,980 times (64.6%)
Whites were arrested 8,264 times (22.3%)

Searches

Of the 214,803 Traffic stops, searches were conducted 31,543 times (14.7%)

African Americans were searched 3,877 times (12.3%)

Hispanics were searched 22,468 times (71.1%)

Whites were searched 5,094 times (16.1%)

Of the 31,543 Traffic searches, 2,755 searches were conducted with consent

African Americans were searched with consent 588 times (21.3%)

Hispanics were searched with consent 1,561 times (56.7%)

Whites were searched with consent 571 times (20.7%)

Of the 73,625 Pedestrian stops, 43,644 resulted in searches

African Americans were searched 6,151 times (14.1%)

Hispanics were searched 27,555 times (63.1%)

Whites were searched 9,708 times (22.2%)

Of the 43,644 Pedestrian searches, 4,243 were conducted with consent

African Americans were searched with consent 938 times (22.1%)

Hispanics were searched with consent 2,349 times (55.4%)

Whites were searched with consent 930 times (21.9%)

Contraband

During the 214,803 Traffic stops, searches were conducted in 31,543 instances. Contraband was discovered in 3,977 searches (12.6% of the times).

African Americans had contraband in 632 searches (16.3%)

Hispanics had contraband in 2,610 searches (11.6%)

Whites had contraband in 717 searches (14.1%)

During the 73,625 Pedestrian stops, searches were conducted in 43,644 instances. Contraband was discovered in 8,019 searches (18.4% of the times).

African Americans had contraband in 1,259 searches (20.5%)

Hispanics had contraband in 4,852 searches (17.6%)

Whites had contraband in 1,876 searches (19.3%)

Conclusion

It is important to emphasize that many variables must be considered in any analysis of the collected data. These variables would include the use of directed patrol in crime “hotspots”, as well as special San Antonio City Council initiatives, such as the SAPD/BCSO Gang Task Force, the frequency that certain segments of the population are involved in the activity in question, and number of officers assigned to different areas of town. Note: many of these initiatives center around high crime neighborhoods where the racial demographic makeup is not reflective of the overall city population.

Currently, the dates and locations of the aforementioned variables, as well as all other pertinent data, are in the process of being compiled. The data will then be provided to a qualified third party consultant for further analysis. The third party consultant is anticipated to be approved within the next few weeks and a completed report will be available in the Fall of 2003.